

December 2000

YELLOW STARHISTLE AND SALMON RECOVERY

Final Report 2000



DOE/BP-24172-1



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Project: **Yellow Starthistle and Salmon Recovery**
Project # 2000 – 008 (BPA # 00AP24172)

Background: This project was proposed by Asotin County Conservation District (“District”) as a method to reduce the impacts of yellow starthistle (“YST”) and improve salmon recovery efforts in Asotin County by providing cooperators with methods to develop goals that encompass ecological, economic and social factors.

Objectives:

1. Provide a comprehensive approach to reversing the invasion of YST and enhancing efforts to restore salmon in Asotin County.
2. Enhancing the well being of cooperators and communities as a whole.

Projects: To achieve the goals of this project, Jeff Goebel provided an overview of holistic management for cooperators at the District’s Annual Meeting on February 17, 2000. The second phase of this project was to provide an Introduction to Holistic Management workshop to cooperators interested in learning more detailed information.

Results: A total of 19 cooperators participated in the overview at the Annual Meeting. A total of 14 cooperators and agency personnel attended the Introduction to Holistic Management workshop. This was a three-day course during which participants learned the basic concepts of holistic management. Participants went through the exercise of setting a three-part goal. First they identified the whole for their situation, which includes the people, resource base and money. This gave participants an idea of who needs to be involved in setting the goal. The district employees and supervisors went through the exercise of defining the whole for the Conservation District and identifying the stakeholders.

The next step was to create a temporary goal. Participants were asked to think about the quality of life they wanted to achieve, the forms of production available to them and their future resource base to sustain their goal. Setting a three-part goal was an important part of this workshop because the rest of the course related back to the goal.

The next phase of this workshop was to utilize testing guidelines to make management decisions relative to the three-part goal. There are seven guidelines used in making management decisions under this system and they are designed to quickly help cooperators make decisions between management choices. These guidelines include 1) evaluating how the choices available to you affect the whole ecosystem, 2) identifying the weak links of each choice, 3) deciding if the choice is part of the problem or the solution to the weak link, 4) evaluating the marginal reaction of each choice to determine if it moves you closer toward your goal, 5) evaluate whether the choice is self-sustaining or needs more inputs, 6) compares the difference between money in and money out for each choice, and 7) evaluates how the choice affects the quality of life managers seek and what it does to that of others.

In summary, this course gave land managers tools to make decisions based on quality of production rather than quantity of production. Through this holistic system, issues such as clean water, a healthy ecosystem, a happy family and community and profit are all considered on an equal basis and managed for their fullest achievement.

Total Costs: **\$13,042.24**

In Kind Costs: **\$ 8,000.00** Jeff Goebel in kind contribution of \$1000/day @ 8 days
\$ 42.24 Supplies paid for by District

BPA Costs: **\$ 5,000.00** Jeff Goebel consulting of \$500/day @ 8 days,
materials and travel



Jeff Goebel (center), visits with workshop participants before the workshop starts



Growers at the District's annual meeting listen to Jeff Goebel's presentation